

What is claimed is:

1. An information providing system comprising:

a server;

5 a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with
the server; and

a display device for receiving information sent by the server,

wherein the server comprises:

a database;

10 means for receiving a search signal sent from the portable information
equipment;

means for receiving a signal relating to entity identification of the portable
information equipment and of the display device;

15 means for conducting searches on the database based on the search
signal;

means for sending information obtained by the search to the display device;
and

means for charging an information provision fee to the portable information
equipment.

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2. An information providing system comprising:

a server;

a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with
the server; and

25 a display device for receiving information sent by the server,

wherein the display device has means for generating a sound signal capable of identifying the entity,

wherein the portable information equipment has means for hearing the sound signal and sending the sound signal to the server, and

5 wherein the server has means for identifying the display device through the sound signal sent from the portable information equipment.

3. An information providing system comprising:

a server;

10 a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with the server; and

a display device for receiving information sent by the server,

15 wherein the display device has means for storing the information sent from the server.

4. An information providing system comprising:

a server;

a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with the server; and

20 a display device for receiving information sent from the server,

wherein the display device has means for sensing a search signal and electromagnetic waves other than the search signal, which are sent by the portable information equipment.

25 5. An information providing system comprising:

a server having a database;
a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with
the server; and

a display device for receiving information sent by the server,
5 wherein the portable information equipment sends a search signal to the
server,

wherein the server conducts a search on the database based on the search
signal and sends information obtained by the search to the display device, and
wherein the display device displays the information thereon.

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6. An information providing system comprising:

a first server for obtaining information from a database managed by a second
server;

a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with
15 the first server; and

a display device for receiving information from the first server,

wherein the portable information equipment sends a search signal to the first
server,

wherein the first server has means for communicating with the second
20 server; sends the search signal to the second server and searches the database managed
by the second server based on the search signal; receives information obtained by the
search; and sends the information to the display device, and

wherein the display device displays the information thereon.

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7. An information providing method comprising the steps of:

sending, by a portable information equipment, entity identification information of a display device and the portable information equipment itself to a server;

verifying, by the server, the entity identification information of the display
5 device and the portable information equipment;

conducting, by the server, a search on a database and sends information obtained by the search to the display device;

displaying, by the display device, the information sent from the server thereon; and

10 verifying, by the server, that the information is displayed on the display device and charging to the portable information equipment.

8. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

adjusting search signals and conducting searches on the database upon
15 receiving the search signals from the plurality of portable information equipment;

sequentially sending, by the server, a plurality of information obtained by the search to the display device; and

displaying, by the display device, the plurality of different information on the display portion which is divided into a plurality of regions, or displaying the
20 plurality of different information on the display portion while overlapping with each other.

9. A method according to claim 7, wherein the display device is disposed at a place that can be seen by an unspecified number of the general public.

10. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

communicating, by the portable information equipment and the display device, a signal capable of identifying the entity; and

5 sending, by the portable information equipment, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment itself to the server or the first server.

11. A method according to claim 7, further comprising a step of:

10 receiving, by the display device, the information sent from the server or the first server through a line.

12. A method according to claim 7, further comprising a step of:

15 receiving, by the display device, information sent from the server or the first server via a satellite.

13. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

sending, by the server or the first server, numeric or letter or character information to the display device;

displaying, by the display device, the information thereon;

20 sending, by the portable information equipment, the numeral or the letter or character displayed on the display device to the server or the first server; and

verifying, by the server or the first server, that the portable information equipment is disposed at a visible position.

25 14. A method according to claim 7, further comprising a step of:

displaying, by the display device, information selected from information delivered by a news agency, a newspaper publishing company or a broadcasting station.

5 15. A method according to claim 14, further comprising a step of:

displaying, by the display device, on the same screen the delivered information and the information obtained by the search on the database, for a programmed period of time or at a time when the server performs an operation.

10 16. An information providing method comprising the steps of:

11 sending, by a portable information equipment, an identification signal of a display device and the portable information equipment itself to a server;

12 verifying, by the server, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment;

13 15 sending, by the server, information for displaying a menu screen for conducting a search to the display device;

14 sending, by the portable information equipment, a search signal;

15 conducting, by the server, a search on a database based on the search signal;

16 20 sending, by the server, information obtained by the search to the display device; and

17 verifying, by the server, that the information was displayed on the display device, and requesting a communication line manager an accounting to the portable information equipment.

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17. A method according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

adjusting search signals and conducting searches on the database upon receiving the search signals from the plurality of portable information equipment;

sequentially sending, by the server, a plurality of information obtained by the search to the display device; and

displaying, by the display device, the plurality of different information on the display portion which is divided into a plurality of regions, or displaying the plurality of different information on the display portion while overlapping with each other.

18. A method according to claim 16, wherein the display device is disposed at a place that can be seen by an unspecified number of the general public.

19. A method according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

communicating, by the portable information equipment and the display device, a signal capable of identifying the entity; and

sending, by the portable information equipment, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment itself to the server or the first server.

20. A method according to claim 16, further comprising a step of:

receiving, by the display device, the information sent from the server or the first server through a line.

21. A method according to claim 16, further comprising a step of:

receiving, by the display device, information sent from the server or the first server via a satellite.

22. A method according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

5 sending, by the server or the first server, numeric or letter or character information to the display device;

 displaying, by the display device, the information thereon;

 sending, by the portable information equipment, the numeral or the letter or character displayed on the display device to the server or the first server; and

10 verifying, by the server or the first server, that the portable information equipment is disposed at a visible position.

23. A method according to claim 16, further comprising a step of:

 displaying, by the display device, information selected from information
15 delivered by a news agency, a newspaper publishing company or a broadcasting station.

24. A method according to claim 23, further comprising a step of:

 displaying, by the display device, on the same screen the delivered
20 information and the information obtained by the search on the database, for a programmed period of time or at a time when the server performs an operation.

25. An information providing method, comprising the steps of:

 sending, by a portable information equipment, an identification signal of a
25 display device and the portable information equipment itself to a server;

verifying, by the server, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment;

sending, by the portable information equipment, a search signal to a first server;

5 communicating, by the first server, with a second server, sending the search signal to the second server, and conducting a search on a database managed by the second server based on the search signal, receiving information obtained by the search, and sending the information to the display device; and

displaying, by the display device, the information thereon.

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26. A method according to claim 25, wherein the display device is disposed at a place that can be seen by an unspecified number of the general public.

27. A method according to claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

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communicating, by the portable information equipment and the display device, a signal capable of identifying the entity; and

sending, by the portable information equipment, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment itself to the server or the first server.

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28. A method according to claim 25, further comprising a step of:

receiving, by the display device, the information sent from the server or the first server through a line.

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29. A method according to claim 25, further comprising a step of:

receiving, by the display device, information sent from the server or the first server via a satellite.

30. A method according to claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

5 sending, by the server or the first server, numeric or letter or character information to the display device;

 displaying, by the display device, the information thereon;

 sending, by the portable information equipment, the numeral or the letter or character displayed on the display device to the server or the first server; and

10 verifying, by the server or the first server, that the portable information equipment is disposed at a visible position.

31. A method according to claim 25, further comprising a step of:

 displaying, by the display device, information selected from information
15 delivered by a news agency, a newspaper publishing company or a broadcasting station.

32. A method according to claim 31, further comprising a step of:

 displaying, by the display device, on the same screen the delivered
20 information and the information obtained by the search on the database, for a programmed period of time or at a time when the server performs an operation.

33. An information providing method comprising the step of:

 sending, by a server, a commercial advertisement or a public service
25 announcement stored in a database to a display device as information and displaying

it thereon when the server does not receive a search signal from the portable information equipment.

34. An information providing method comprising a step of:

5 storing, by a server, information for advertisement from a sponsor in a database;

sending the information to a display device, for providing as information the advertisement to an unspecified number of the general public; and

10 charging to the sponsor for using the information providing method as an advertising medium.

35. An information providing method comprising a step of:

15 sending, by a portable information equipment, a search signal to a server;
conducting, by the server, a search on a database based on the search signal;
sending information obtained by the search to a display device; and
displaying, by the display device, the information thereon,

wherein the portable information equipment is capable of two-way communication with the server.